

## **REMARKS**

The Applicant has received and reviewed the Official Action mailed by the Office on 7 March 2006 (hereinafter, the "Action"). This paper is submitted as a fully-responsive reply to the Action, and the Applicant requests favorable action on the subject application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

### **Preliminary Informalities and Claim Objections**

Paragraph 1 of the Action lists several informalities noted in claims 4, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 23. As discussed in more detail below, the features formerly recited in claim 4 are now recited in claim 1, and the informality noted in the Action affecting claim 4 is now addressed in the revisions to claim 1. Also, as discussed in more detail below, claims 17, 18, 20, 21, and 23 are cancelled without waiver, prejudice, or disclaimer to expedite allowance of this application.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Paragraph 3 of the Action stated a rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 13, 17-19, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,804,334 to Beasley, et al ("Beasley"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning first to **independent claim 1**, without conceding the propriety of the stated rejection, or conceding that Beasley provides the teaching for which it is cited, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the features formerly recited in dependent claims

2, 4, and 5. In so doing, the Applicant expresses appreciation for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 6, as noted in Paragraph 10 of the Action. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, and 5 are cancelled without waiver, prejudice, or disclaimer, and the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of claim 1.

Claims 3 and 7-12 depend from claim 1 and stand rejected under similar grounds. Thus, the comments directed above to claim 1 apply equally to claims 3 and 7-12.

Claims 13-28 are cancelled without waiver, prejudice, or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and merely to expedite allowance of this application.

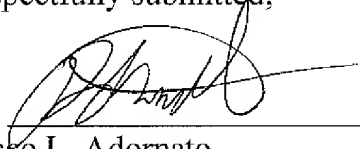
### **Conclusion**

The Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3, and 6-12 at the earliest convenience of the Office.

If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent favorable action on this case, **the Office is requested to contact the undersigned to resolve the issue.**

Date: 8 MAY 06

Respectfully submitted,

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